

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CONTRACTS COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Silva; Co-chair, Brannelly; Co-chair, Paoletto, Vizzo-Paniccia, Holloway, Brantley, dePara

NON-COMMITTEE: Council member T. McCarthy

CITY STAFF: T. Graybarz, Public Facilities
R. Weiner, Benefits Manager

ASSOCIATE CITY ATTORNEY: L. Trachtenburg

Co-chair Silva called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. He introduced the committee members.

AGENDA

Approval of Committee Minutes of December 13, 2011.

Corrections

Pages 1, 4 and 6 where it reads; Co-chair Paoletto **should read; Council member Paoletto**; where it reads; Council member Brannelly **should read; Co-chair Brannelly**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS
CORRECTED
** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

25-11 Proposed Pilot Program Agreement with United Illuminating regarding the Installation of an Electric Vehicle car charging station at City Hall.

Mr. Graybarz presented the item. He said the city through United Illuminating was given the opportunity to install electric charging stations to power up electric cars, since these types of vehicles are becoming more popular. The program will be on a gratis basis to the city for two years. The charging station will be located at the north end of city hall. He noted that four charging stations were considered, but they ended up with one for an initial period. United Illuminating will provide all the electricity for two years and if the city finds that the program isn't working out, UI will come in and remove them at no charge. The Pilot Program was approved by the City Hall Committee. Attorney Trachtenburg added that four locations for the charging station was considered; however, the contract was rewritten to determine where it will be situated. She stated that the contract is through the city.

Council member dePara asked about Sub-section-7 outlined in the agreement regarding labor fees. He questioned the language pertaining to "*sole discretion..*". He asked if the language was submitted to the city clerk's office before or after the wording was added. Attorney Trachtenburg said it was submitted before.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if UI will resurface the ground area so no holes are left if the city decides not to keep the pump. Mr. Graybarz said according to the ordinance guidelines they will.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the pole in the ground will be cemented and if any side barriers will be installed for safety precautions for trucks. Mr. Graybarz said yes, they will be installed on the top curb area. He pointed out that the charging station will be located at the north end of city hall in proximity to the grassed area. He explained that the location was determined to be visible to the public and also to avoid vandalism.

Co-chair Silva asked if the Pilot Program would also be for the public's use; considering the fact that the city may switch over to using electric cars eventually. Mr. Graybarz said they haven't considered that yet; however, the expectation

would be to look at electric and hybrid cars within the next few years. He said the charging station will be for the public's use also.

Council member dePara questioned what fees would be incurred after the two years. Mr. Graybarz said the fees will reflect the electric costs that will ultimately be borne by the city. Council member dePara asked if he had a ball park cost. Mr. Graybarz said he didn't have the cost at this time. He explained that the program was implemented to gauge the percentage of use right now. He said there was no firm commitment at this time, so the city won't be locking themselves into anything.

Council member dePara asked when he would have some preliminary numbers for the costs. Mr. Graybarz said they plan to install the station within the next four to six months; at that time, they will have preliminary numbers. Council member dePara asked him to report the numbers to the Contracts Committee and Budget & Appropriations Committee when they're available. Overall, he said he thought the program might be a good investment.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked about assuming responsibility of damages as it was outlined in the contract. Attorney Trachtenburg clarified that the language pertained to the city; for example, if a city plow ran into the charging station, the city will be liable. She further elaborated that general use, an act of God or weather related damage would be incurred by United Illuminating.

Mr. Graybarz clarified that the charging station will be located in an aisle area that will be well lit, so there will be a low risk of it being plowed into.

Council member Brantley asked if the two year program was mandatory. Mr. Graybarz said that that's the duration they need to accumulate data to see the value of the program.

Council member Paoletto commented that this item will have to come back to the council after two years if it's extended. Mr. Graybarz said that was correct.

Council member Paoletto asked the cost of the unit. Mr. Graybarz said the cost wasn't known at this time. Attorney Trachtenburg stated that if they chose to keep the charging station, then decisions will be made and the cost will be discussed. She added that if they sell the premises during the two year period, there is an opt out clause.

Council member Holloway stated that many major cities and smaller cities are trying out the same program. However, he noted that there aren't many hybrids or electric cars on the road. He said the public will have to get used to it since more

of these types of cars are being manufactured. Overall, he thought the program was a good idea.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if there would be a designated parking space for the vehicle to charge. She noted that it takes 4 to 8 hours to charge a car. The response was that charging will be done in the parking lot, so it's unlikely that a vehicle owner will leave their car to charge that long.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

26-11 Resolution to enter into a site lease with GP Renewables & Trading, LLC regarding the Implementation of Renewable Energy Facilities at the Webster Bank Arena.

Mr. Graybarz presented the proposal to place a fuel cell at the Webster Bank Arena. He stated that they currently use a large number of kilowatts per year. The city pays approximately 14-cents per kilowatt for electricity and the fuel cell will reduce the cost of energy from 16-cents to 14-cents that will be negotiated through the power purchase agreement, which is standard. He said instead of paying the utility company, they will pay G.P. Renewables & Trading LLC. He explained that fuel cell use is considered renewable energy that provides excess heat and it will be used for the arena. It's very efficient and they will install a small unit that will be placed in the back of the arena. It will also help new operators save money on utility costs of approximately \$70k per year. Attorney Pacacha added that one other benefit is that as the arena expenses go down, they will see incentive rent.

Council member dePara mentioned the fuel cell producing approximately 90% of the annual electric use. He questioned at that calculation, it only amounts to a 2-cent savings per kilowatt hour. Mr. Graybarz said the agreement was negotiated with the operator and it's relative to other power purchase agreements. He said he felt that 2-cents was reasonable.

Mr. Graybarz commented that solar energy doesn't offer the same power capabilities as fuel cell energy per Council member dePara's question. He stated that one of the issues with the power purchase agreement is an escalator. He noted that the escalator equates to 3 ¼% per year for three years, compared to solar energy they would pay 3.5% and with the escalator in place, it locks in the utility cost that amounts to a significant benefit.

Council member dePara asked if the fuel cell will be properly located so that it doesn't cause any harm. Mr. Graybarz said they will have to abide by all the city requirements related to building code, zoning etc. because of the flammable hydrogen component it's kept inside so there is no risk of out gas leakage.

Council member Paoletto commented that he talked to Mr. Graybarz and other municipalities about the proposal. He thought it was a thing of the future and it would be beneficial to help keep costs down.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

32-11 Proposed Agreement with Aetna Life Insurance to provide a Medicare Advantage Health Plan to covered Medicare-eligible retirees of the City and Board of Education for the period of January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2012.

Richard Weiner, Benefits Manager distributed some information related to the item.

Co-chair Silva stated that he received a few complaints from other council members that they didn't receive portions of the contract. Council President McCarthy said there was only one referral at the last meeting, so that's why everyone didn't get the information. Council member Paoletto added that every piece of information was handed out during the December meeting.

Mr. Weiner stated that in addition to the documents they received, he wanted to add three (3) additional items as follows:

- Rate sheet
- Cover sheet with dates of the contract
- Benefits summary

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO INSERT ADDITIONAL PAGES 1 AND 2 ADDED TO THE A AND B EXHIBIT; C-EXHIBIT (AETNA INFORMATION PAGE)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Weiner explained that the carrier is Aetna and medical benefits are covered
City of Bridgeport
Contracts Committee
January 10, 2012
Page 5 of 7

through the plan. The plan provides supplemental coverage to what Medicare provides and the city is obligated to provide the coverage. The premium cost is \$170.00 per person per month. He explained that during the 2011 program coverage was with Anthem at a cost of \$204.00 per month.

Council member dePara asked about budgeting. Mr. Weiner said when they did the 2012 budget, they knew that the Anthem contract would expire, so they had to bill for what the plan would cost in 2012 and they built in a cost of \$184.00 per person into the budget.

Council member dePara asked what the difference was between \$184.00 per person and \$170.00. Mr. Weiner said annually the cost of \$184.00 per person amounts to 5.3 million and the cost of \$170.00 per person amounts to 4.9 million per year. So they are saving roughly \$407k per year.

Council member dePara asked how many individuals this cost pertained to. Mr. Weiner said 2,427 individuals and fifty (50) people higher than last year.

Council member Holloway asked if the plan was for city employees. He questioned if an employee retires next year and Medicare part-B kicks in; why would anyone take this plan. Mr. Weiner said because Medicare doesn't cover everything and part-B pays 80% of the approved charge.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked why the agreement wasn't brought forth prior to the committee. Mr. Weiner said he didn't receive the rates until October. He explained that by the time they receive the rates and review the contract it's December. He further explained that the information wasn't ready for the last meeting. However, they must provide the benefits and it would be a problem if the item doesn't pass. He stated that contractually, they're obligated to provide benefits.

Co-chair Silva asked if the benefits were already active, although the item hasn't been approved by the full council. Mr. Weiner said that was correct. He stated that they will introduce a MEDCO contract that will be retroactive to November 1, 2011, but it's still being reviewed.

Co-chair Silva asked if they were currently charging participants for the coverage. He questioned how they could charge them if the contract hasn't been officially approved yet.

Attorney Pacacha stated that if the item wasn't approved, they will have to reimburse Aetna for whatever has been expended on the employee's behalf. And in turn, the city will have to reimburse the employees because of the gap in coverage.

Council member Brannelly asked if this was a managed Medicare product. Mr. Weiner said yes.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services